

Shooters Island, Ships Graveyard: Vessel 37  
Newark Bay  
Staten Island  
Richmond County  
New York

HAER No. NY-162-A

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Engineering Record  
Mid-Atlantic Region  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HAER  
NY,  
43-SHOOT  
2 -

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Shooters Island, Ships Graveyard: Vessel 37

HAER No. NY-162-A

Location: On Shooters Island on Newark Bay  
Staten Island, Richmond County, New York, and  
Elizabeth-Bayonne, Hudson and Union Counties,  
New Jersey

Date of Construction: c. 1923

Present Owner: State of New York

Present Use: Not in use.

Significance: Vessel Number 37 is a relatively well-preserved covered barge with living quarters for the operators of the barge, a stove cage for heating and ice boxes for cooling the protected cargo. This vessel is typical of a once-common type which was significant in harbor lightering, and has now virtually disappeared.

Project Information: Mitigative documentation of vessels on Shooters Island was undertaken in compliance with a Memorandum of Agreement among the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office, the New York State Preservation Office, and the New York District Corps of Engineers in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Documentation was prepared by Historic Sites Research of Princeton, New Jersey, during the winter of 1984-1985. The project was conducted by Dr. Susan Kardas and Dr. Edward McM. Larrabee, archaeologists and supervisors, with architectural technicians Robert Nash and Leslie Duffy Nash. Consultants included Norman Brouwer of the South Street Seaport Museum.

Edited, Retyped  
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Shooters Island: Ships Graveyard,  
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(Page 2)

The deckhouse of Vessel 37 is still in fairly good condition. It has large sliding doors in the sides, with corresponding openings in the roof so that cargo could be lowered from ships or warehouses alongside. In the center of the single large room for stowing cargo is a steel cage which would have contained a stove for keeping bagged cargoes, such as sugar, coffee or grains, dry. The cage prevented the cargo from coming into actual contact with the stove. There are also louvered ventilation ducts built into the corners of the house, as well as provision for ice boxes at each end to keep cargoes cool in hot weather. The aft end of the deckhouse contains the crew living quarters, but only the bare rooms remain. Because of the degree of preservation, Vessel 37 was chosen as representative of barges at Shooters Island and was recorded.

See HAER Photographs NY-162-A-3, NY-162-A-4, and NY-162-A-5 for exterior and interior views of Vessel 37.